



**Fourmile Creek Watershed Management Authority
Implementation Meeting Minutes**

September 24, 2015 AT 8:00 AM

Public Services Building
City of Ankeny
220 W. 1st Street
Ankeny, Iowa

Those in attendance were as follows: Kyle Riley, Bob Rice, Cindy Valin, Ben Champ, Gary Lorenz, Jennifer Welch, Amy Bryant, Dan Pritchard, Mark Land, Scott Hutchens, Rich Leopold, and Jim Jordahl.

1. Welcome – Mark Land opened the meeting. A spreadsheet was handed out that summarized the implementation action summary. It is divided into the eight goals that have been laid out by the committee. Suggestions on the spreadsheet – add a section on when practice was completed, add a funding section for the practice, and add a notes section about the practice. Another suggestion was to add an interactive map to the website that shows the practice location and details.
2. Overview of Polk County Conservation Monitoring Plan – Rich Leopold
 - a. 18 trained staff; 12 in Fourmile Creek watershed; sampling on 1st and 3rd weeks of the months; annually complete biological testing; and quality assurance project plan (QAPP) is being completed. Monitoring is based on red flag network/long-term trend analysis. Starting with Polk County Conservation staff at this time, may reach out to volunteers at a later time. Plan to do an annual report. Keeping two datasets: IOWATER and private. How does the data tie back to the Authority? Data is open and transparent and can be requested by entities. How were sites chosen? Many factors including historical sites, sites by county improvements, with input from IDNR, on public land, and other items. How do we need to convey this information as an authority? Use the QAPP to keep credibility. Put a map for monitoring locations on the website. Why is Polk County Conservation doing this as opposed to a larger organization? DNR should, but doesn't have staff and capacity. Included in the bond as an important issue to Iowans. Polk County Conservation is not an enforcing agency. The local soil and water conservation districts will be great resources for this effort.

3. Discussion of Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Jim Jordahl, Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance
 - a. Putting together NRCS grant proposal; did a pre-proposal was accepted; full proposal due November 10th; asking for 30 million dollars. Currently 10 million in matching funds. National scale proposal to address gulf hypoxia. Money earmarked for restoring wetlands; working with producers; remaining to be utilized as practices; edge of field practices (treatment wetland, bioreactor). Fourmile Creek is a targeted area. Project co-led by this group and IDALS. Is there a specific amount of information needed from the Fourmile WMA? Letter of support and cooperation needed from the Fourmile WMA; matching funding or in-kind donations (programming investments, planning dollars). It is a five year grant, notification of award is in January.
4. Discussion on Strategy Champions – Mark Land – Draft list for each goal. A suggestion was made to start with the chair of each committee first. Each person would be asked before a list is formalized. Draft list to go out to implementation group.
5. Discussion on plan Coordination and Funding – The group talked about having Polk Soil and Water Conservation District taking the lead on getting a watershed coordinator. Funding is an integral part of what Polk SWCD is already doing. Request of Polk SWCD to bring a funding estimate for this person to the full board meeting in October. Add this item regarding Polk SWCD to the agenda.
6. Review of October Board Meeting Agenda – Draft agenda provided. Add action item for chair to sign the letter for the grant that IAWA is writing.
7. Other Items for Discussion – No other items discussed.
8. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 9:47 am.